

General Assembly

Committee Bill No. 1

January Session, 2017

LCO No. 4897

_____SB00001LAB___031017_____

Referred to Committee on LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Introduced by: (LAB)

AN ACT CONCERNING EARNED FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) As used in this section and sections 2 to 13, inclusive, of this act:
- 3 (1) "Covered employee" means an individual who (A) (i) has earned
- 4 not less than two thousand three hundred twenty-five dollars, or such
- 5 minimum earning threshold as is prescribed by the Labor
- 6 Commissioner pursuant to subsection (f) of section 2 of this act, from
- 7 one or more employers during the employee's highest earning quarter
- 8 within the five most recently completed calendar quarters, and (ii) is
- 9 employed by an employer or not currently employed, or (B) is a self-
- 10 employed person or sole proprietor who is enrolled in the Family and
- 11 Medical Leave Compensation Program pursuant to section 8 of this
- 12 act;
- 13 (2) "Administrator" means the Labor Department;
- 14 (3) "Employ" means to allow or permit to work;

- 15 (4) "Employee" means any person engaged in service to an employer 16 in the state in the business of the employer and shall include a self-17 employed person or sole proprietor in the state who elects coverage 18 under section 8 of this act;
 - (5) "Employer" means a person engaged in any activity, enterprise or business who employs two or more employees, and includes any person who acts, directly or indirectly, in the interest of an employer to any of the employees of such employer and any successor in interest of an employer, and shall include a municipality, a local or regional board of education, or a private or parochial elementary or secondary school, but shall not include the state. The number of employees of an employer shall be determined by the administrator on October first annually;
- 28 (6) "Family and medical leave compensation" or "compensation" 29 means the paid leave provided to covered employees from the Family 30 and Medical Leave Compensation Trust Fund;
- 31 (7) "Family and Medical Leave Compensation Program" or 32 "program" means the program established pursuant to section 2 of this 33 act;
 - (8) "Family and Medical Leave Compensation Trust Fund" or "trust" means the trust fund established pursuant to section 3 of this act; and
- 36 (9) "Person" means one or more individuals, partnerships, 37 associations, corporations, limited liability companies, business trusts, 38 legal representatives or any organized group of persons.
 - Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a Family and Medical Leave Compensation Program. The program shall be administered by the administrator and shall offer up to twelve workweeks of family and medical leave compensation to covered employees during any twelve-month period as described in section 31-51*ll* of the general statutes, as amended by this act. The administrator shall begin collecting contributions to the Family and Medical Leave

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Compensation Trust Fund, established pursuant to section 3 of this act, on or before July 1, 2019, and shall begin to provide compensation to covered employees on and after July 1, 2020. For the purposes of this section and sections 3 to 13, inclusive, of this act, the administrator shall have the power to (1) determine whether an individual meets the requirements for compensation under this section; (2) require a covered employee's claim for compensation pursuant to this section be supported by certification pursuant to section 31-51mm of the general statutes, as amended by this act; (3) examine or cause to be produced or examined, any books, records, documents, contracts or other papers relevant to the eligibility of a covered employee; (4) summon and examine under oath such witnesses as may provide information relevant to a covered employee's claim for family and medical leave compensation; (5) establish procedures and forms for the filing of claims for compensation, including the certification required for establishing eligibility for such compensation; and (6) ensure the confidentiality of records and documents relating to medical certifications, recertifications or medical histories of covered employees or covered employees' family members pursuant to section 31-5100 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

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- (b) Each employee shall contribute a percentage of his or her weekly earnings to the Family and Medical Leave Compensation Trust Fund, in a manner and form as prescribed by the administrator pursuant to section 6 of this act. Such contributions shall be utilized to provide compensation to covered employees pursuant to subsections (c) to (e), inclusive, of this section.
- (c) (1) The level of weekly compensation offered to covered employees shall be one hundred per cent of a covered employee's average weekly earnings during the covered employee's highest earning quarter within the five most recently completed calendar quarters preceding the date the leave commences after such earnings have been reduced by any deduction for federal or state taxes, or both, and for the federal Insurance Contributions Act, provided such

compensation shall not exceed one thousand dollars per week or such maximum compensation threshold as is prescribed by the Labor Commissioner pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection. If the Internal Revenue Service determines that family and medical leave compensation is subject to federal income tax and a covered employee elects to have federal income tax deducted and withheld from his or her compensation, the administrator shall deduct and withhold the amount specified in the United States Internal Revenue Code in a manner consistent with the state law.

- (2) Effective July 1, 2020, and not later than each July fifteenth thereafter, the Labor Commissioner shall announce an adjustment to the maximum compensation threshold established pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection that shall be equal to the percentage increase between the last complete calendar year and the previous calendar year in the consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers in the northeast urban area of New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA, with no seasonal adjustment, as calculated by the United States Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, with the amount of the maximum compensation threshold increase rounded to the nearest five cents. The maximum compensation threshold plus the adjustment announced by the Labor Commissioner on July fifteenth shall become the new maximum compensation threshold and shall be effective on the January first immediately following.
- (d) A covered employee shall receive compensation under this section for leave taken for one or more of the reasons listed in subparagraphs (A) to (E), inclusive, of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 31-51ll of the general statutes, as amended by this act, or the reasons listed in subsection (i) of said section or section 31-51ss of the general statutes, as amended by this act, provided such covered employee (1) provides notice to the administrator, and such covered employee's employer, if applicable, of the need for such compensation in a form and a manner as prescribed by the administrator, and (2)

112 upon the request of the administrator, provides certification of such 113 covered employee's need for compensation in accordance with the provisions of section 31-51mm of the general statutes, as amended by 115 this act, to the administrator and such employer, if applicable.

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- (e) A covered employee may receive compensation under this section for nonconsecutive hours of leave provided such leave shall not amount to less than eight hours of leave in any workweek. If family and medical leave benefits are taken for eight hours or more, but for less than one full week, such hourly compensation shall be determined on a pro rata basis at the discretion of the administrator.
- (f) Effective July 1, 2020, and not later than each July fifteenth thereafter, the Labor Commissioner shall announce an adjustment to the minimum earning threshold required for an individual to receive compensation under this section that shall be equal to the percentage increase between the last complete calendar year and the previous calendar year in the consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers in the northeast urban area of New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA, with no seasonal adjustment, as calculated by the United States Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics, with the amount of the minimum earning threshold increase rounded to the nearest five cents. The minimum earning threshold plus the adjustment announced by the Labor Commissioner on July fifteenth shall become the new minimum earning threshold and shall be effective on the January first immediately following.
- (g) A covered employee may receive compensation under this section concurrently with any employer-provided employment benefits, provided the total compensation of such covered employee during such period of leave shall not exceed such covered employee's regular rate of compensation.
- (h) No covered employee shall receive compensation under this section concurrently with the provisions of chapter 567 or 568 of the general statutes or any other state or federal program that provides

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- 144 wage replacement.
- (i) Any moneys expended from the General Fund for the purpose of
- 146 (1) administering the Family and Medical Leave Compensation
- 147 Program, or (2) providing compensation to covered employees shall be
- reimbursed to the General Fund by the administrator not later than
- 149 October 1, 2019.
- 150 Sec. 3. (NEW) (Effective from passage) (a) There is established a fund
- to be known as the "Family and Medical Leave Compensation Trust
- 152 Fund" the purpose of which shall be to provide compensation to
- 153 covered employees who take leave pursuant to sections 31-51kk to 31-
- 154 51qq, inclusive, of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and 31-
- 155 51ss of the general statutes, as amended by this act. The Family and
- 156 Medical Leave Compensation Trust Fund shall be a nonlapsing fund
- 157 held by the State Treasurer separate and apart from all other moneys,
- 158 funds and accounts. Investment earnings credited to the trust shall
- 159 become part of the trust.
- (b) The trust shall constitute an instrumentality of the state and shall
- 161 perform essential governmental functions, in accordance with the
- provisions of this section. The trust shall receive and hold all payments
- and deposits or contributions intended for the trust, as well as gifts,
- bequests, endowments or federal, state or local grants and any other
- 165 funds from any public or private source and all earnings until
- disbursed in accordance with the provisions of this section.
- 167 (c) The amounts on deposit in the trust shall not constitute property
- of the state and the trust shall not be construed to be a department,
- institution or agency of the state. Amounts on deposit in the trust shall
- 170 not be commingled with state funds and the state shall have no claim
- to or against, or interest in, such funds. Any contract entered into by or
- any obligation of the trust shall not constitute a debt or obligation of
- the state and the state shall have no obligation to any designated
- beneficiary or any other person on account of the trust and all amounts
- obligated to be paid from the trust shall be limited to amounts

- available for such obligation on deposit in the trust. The trust shall
- 177 continue in existence as long as it holds any deposits or has any
- 178 obligations and until its existence is terminated by law and upon
- termination any unclaimed assets shall return to the state. Property of
- the trust shall be governed by section 3-61a of the general statutes.
- 181 (d) The State Treasurer shall be responsible for the receipt and
- investment of moneys held by the trust. The trust shall not receive
- deposits in any form other than cash. No depositor or designated
- beneficiary may direct the investment of any contributions or amounts
- held in the trust other than the specific fund options provided for by
- the trust.
- (e) The assets of the trust shall be used for the purpose of
- 188 distributing family and medical leave compensation to covered
- 189 employees, educating and informing individuals about the program
- and paying the operational, administrative and investment costs of the
- trust, including those incurred pursuant to section 6 of this act.
- 192 Sec. 4. (NEW) (Effective from passage) The State Treasurer, on behalf
- 193 of the Family and Medical Leave Compensation Trust Fund and for
- 194 purposes of the trust, shall:
- 195 (1) Receive and invest moneys in the trust in any instruments,
- obligations, securities or property in accordance with sections 3 and 5
- 197 of this act;
- 198 (2) Procure insurance as the State Treasurer deems necessary to
- 199 protect the trust's property, assets, activities or deposits or
- 200 contributions to the trust; and
- 201 (3) Apply for, accept and expend gifts, grants or donations from
- 202 public or private sources to carry out the objectives of the trust.
- Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The State Treasurer shall invest
- 204 the amounts on deposit in the Family and Medical Leave
- 205 Compensation Trust Fund in a manner reasonable and appropriate to

- 206 achieve the objectives of the trust, exercising the discretion and care of 207 a prudent person in similar circumstances with similar objectives. The 208 State Treasurer shall give due consideration to rate of return, risk, term 209 or maturity, diversification of the total portfolio within the trust, 210 liquidity, the projected disbursements and expenditures and the 211 expected payments, deposits, contributions and gifts to be received. 212 The State Treasurer shall not require the trust to invest directly in 213 obligations of the state or any political subdivision of the state or in 214 any investment or other fund administered by the State Treasurer. The 215 assets of the trust shall be continuously invested and reinvested in a 216 manner consistent with the objectives of the trust until disbursed upon 217 order of the administrator or expended on expenses incurred by the 218 operations of the trust.
- Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The administrator, in consultation with the State Treasurer and the Department of Revenue Services, shall establish the procedures necessary to implement the Family and Medical Leave Compensation Program. The administrator shall:
 - (1) Design, establish and operate the program to ensure transparency in the management of the program and the Family and Medical Leave Compensation Trust Fund through oversight and ethics review of plan fiduciaries;
 - (2) Design and establish the process by which employees shall contribute a portion of their salary or wages to the trust. This process shall include, but not be limited to, the creation of an information packet including the necessary paperwork for an employee to participate in the program pursuant to section 8 of this act;
- 233 (3) Evaluate and establish the process by which employers may 234 credit employee contributions to the trust through payroll deposit;
- 235 (4) Determine the amount of employee contributions necessary to 236 ensure solvency of the program, provided that total contributions shall

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- 237 not be less than four million dollars per month;
- 238 (5) Ensure that contributions to the trust collected from employees 239 shall not be used for any purpose other than to provide compensation 240 to covered employees or to satisfy any expenses, including employee 241 costs, incurred to implement, maintain, advertise and administer the 242 program;
- 243 (6) Establish and maintain a secure Internet web site that displays all 244 public notices issued by the administrator and such other information 245 as the administrator deems relevant and necessary for the education of 246 the public regarding the program; and
 - (7) Not later than January 1, 2018, submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the General Assembly regarding any recommendations for legislative action that may be necessary for the implementation of the program.
 - Sec. 7. (NEW) (Effective January 1, 2019) The administrator, in consultation with the State Treasurer, shall conduct a public education campaign to inform individuals and employers about the Family and Medical Leave Compensation Program. Such campaign shall include, but not be limited to, information about the requirements for receiving family and medical leave compensation, how to apply for such compensation and the circumstances for which such compensation may be available. The administrator may use funds contributed to the Family and Medical Leave Compensation Trust Fund for purposes of the public education campaign. Information distributed or made available under the campaign shall be available in English and Spanish and in any other language as prescribed by the administrator.
 - Sec. 8. (NEW) (Effective from passage) (a) A self-employed person or sole proprietor, upon application to the administrator, in a form and manner as prescribed by the administrator, may enroll in the Family and Medical Leave Compensation Program, provided such self-employed person or sole proprietor is enrolled in the program for an

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- initial period of not less than three years. Such self-employed person or sole proprietor may reenroll in the program for a subsequent period, or periods, of not less than one year, provided (1) such self-employed person or sole proprietor provides written notice of such reenrollment to the administrator, and (2) such reenrollment begins immediately following a period of participation in the program.
 - (b) A self-employed person or sole proprietor may withdraw from the program upon submitting written notice to the administrator not less than thirty days prior to the expiration of the initial enrollment period, or at such other times as the administrator may prescribe by rule.
 - Sec. 9. (NEW) (Effective from passage) Any covered employee, or self-employed person or sole proprietor participating in the program, aggrieved by a denial of compensation under the Family and Medical Leave Compensation Program may file a complaint with the Labor Commissioner. Upon receipt of any such complaint, the commissioner shall hold a hearing. After the hearing, the commissioner shall send each party a written copy of the commissioner's decision. The commissioner may award the covered employee, or self-employed person or sole proprietor, all appropriate relief, including any compensation or benefits to which the employee otherwise would have been eligible if such denial had not occurred. Any party aggrieved by the decision of the commissioner may appeal the decision to the Superior Court in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the general statutes.
 - Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2020*) Each employer shall, at the time of hiring, and annually thereafter, provide notice to each of the employer's employees (1) of the entitlement to family and medical leave under sections 31-51kk to 31-51qq, inclusive, of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and 31-51ss of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and the terms under which such leave may be used, (2) that retaliation by the employer against the employee for requesting, applying for or using family and medical leave for which

the employee is eligible is prohibited, and (3) that the employee has a 301 302 right to file a complaint with the Labor Commissioner for any violation 303 of said sections. Employers shall comply with the provisions of this 304 section by displaying a poster in a conspicuous place, accessible to 305 employees, at the employer's place of business that contains the 306 information required by this section in both English and Spanish. The 307 Labor Commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with 308 chapter 54 of the general statutes, to establish additional requirements 309 concerning the means by which employers shall provide such notice.

- Sec. 11. (NEW) (Effective from passage) (a) Any individual or covered employee participating in the program who wilfully makes a false statement or misrepresentation regarding a material fact, or wilfully fails to report a material fact, to obtain family and medical leave compensation shall be disqualified from receiving any compensation under the program for one year.
- 316 (b) If family and medical leave compensation is paid to an 317 individual or covered employee erroneously or as a result of wilful 318 misrepresentation by such individual or covered employee, or if a 319 claim for family and medical leave compensation is rejected after 320 compensation is paid, the administrator may seek repayment of 321 benefits from the individual or covered employee having received 322 such compensation. The Labor Commissioner may, in his or her 323 discretion, waive, in whole or in part, the amount of any such 324 payments where the recovery would be against equity and good 325 conscience.
- 326 Sec. 12. (NEW) (Effective from passage) (a) The provisions of sections 2 327 to 13, inclusive, of this act are severable and if any provision is 328 determined to contravene state or federal law, the remainder of 329 sections 2 to 13, inclusive, of this act shall remain in full force and 330 effect.
- 331 (b) Nothing in sections 31-51kk to 31-51qq, inclusive, of the general 332 statutes, as amended by this act, and 31-51ss of the general statutes, as

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amended by this act, or sections 2 to 13, inclusive, of this act, shall be construed to (1) prevent employers from providing any benefits that are more expansive than those provided for under said sections, (2) diminish any rights provided to any covered employee under the terms of the covered employee's employment or a collective bargaining agreement, or (3) preempt or override the terms of any collective bargaining agreement effective prior to the effective date of this section.

Sec. 13. (NEW) (Effective from passage) Not later than July 1, 2021, and annually thereafter, the Labor Commissioner shall report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the budgets of state agencies and labor, on (1) the projected and actual participation in the program, (2) the balance of the trust, (3) the size of employers at which covered employees are employed, (4) the reasons covered employees are receiving family and medical leave compensation, (5) the success of the administrator's outreach and education efforts, and (6) demographic information of covered employees, including gender, age, town of residence and income level.

- Sec. 14. Section 31-51kk of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2020*):
- As used in sections 31-51kk to 31-51qq, inclusive, as amended by this act:
 - (1) "Eligible employee" means an [employee] <u>individual</u> who [has been employed (A) for at least twelve months by the employer with respect to whom leave is requested; and (B) for at least one thousand hours of service with such employer during the twelve-month period preceding the first day of the leave;] (A) has earned not less than two thousand three hundred twenty-five dollars, or such minimum earning threshold established by the Labor Commissioner pursuant to subsection (f) of section 2 of this act, from one or more employers

365	during the employee's highest earning quarter within the five most		
366	recently completed calendar quarters, and (B) is employed by an		
367	employer or not currently employed;		

- (2) "Employ" includes to allow or permit to work;
- 369 (3) "Employee" means any person engaged in service to an employer 370 in the business of the employer;
- (4) "Employer" means a person engaged in any activity, enterprise 371 372 or business who employs [seventy-five] two or more employees, and 373 includes any person who acts, directly or indirectly, in the interest of 374 an employer to any of the employees of such employer and any 375 successor in interest of an employer, [but shall not] and shall include 376 [the state,] a municipality, a local or regional board of education, or a 377 private or parochial elementary or secondary school, but shall not 378 include the state. The number of employees of an employer shall be 379 determined on October first annually;
 - (5) "Employment benefits" means all benefits provided or made available to employees by an employer, including group life insurance, health insurance, disability insurance, sick leave, annual leave, educational benefits and pensions, regardless of whether such benefits are provided by practice or written policy of an employer or through an "employee benefit plan", as defined in Section 1002(3) of Title 29 of the United States Code;
- 387 (6) "Grandchild" means a grandchild related to a person by (A) 388 blood, (B) marriage, or (C) adoption by a child of the grandparent;
- 389 (7) "Grandparent" means a grandparent related to a person by (A) 390 blood, (B) marriage, or (C) adoption of a minor child by a child of the 391 grandparent;
- 392 [(6)] (8) "Health care provider" means (A) a doctor of medicine or 393 osteopathy who is authorized to practice medicine or surgery by the 394 state in which the doctor practices; (B) a podiatrist, dentist,

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395 psychologist, optometrist or chiropractor authorized to practice by the 396 state in which such person practices and performs within the scope of 397 the authorized practice; (C) an advanced practice registered nurse, 398 nurse practitioner, nurse midwife or clinical social worker authorized 399 to practice by the state in which such person practices and performs 400 within the scope of the authorized practice; (D) Christian Science 401 practitioners listed with the First Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston, 402 Massachusetts; (E) any health care provider from whom an employer 403 or a group health plan's benefits manager will accept certification of 404 the existence of a serious health condition to substantiate a claim for 405 benefits; (F) a health care provider as defined in subparagraphs (A) to 406 (E), inclusive, of this subdivision who practices in a country other than 407 the United States, who is licensed to practice in accordance with the 408 laws and regulations of that country; or (G) such other health care 409 provider as the Labor Commissioner determines, performing within 410 the scope of the authorized practice. The commissioner may utilize any 411 determinations made pursuant to chapter 568;

[(7)] (9) "Parent" means a biological parent, foster parent, adoptive parent, stepparent, parent-in-law or legal guardian of an eligible employee or an eligible employee's spouse, or an individual [who stood] standing in loco parentis to an eligible employee; [when the employee was a son or daughter;]

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- [(8)] (10) "Person" means one or more individuals, partnerships, associations, corporations, business trusts, legal representatives or organized groups of persons;
- [(9)] (11) "Reduced leave schedule" means a leave schedule that reduces the usual number of hours per workweek, or hours per workday, of an employee;
- [(10)] (12) "Serious health condition" means an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves (A) inpatient care in a hospital, hospice, nursing home or residential medical care facility; or (B) continuing treatment, including outpatient treatment, by

- 427 a health care provider;
- 428 (13) "Sibling" means a brother or sister related to a person by (A)
- 429 <u>blood</u>, (B) marriage, or (C) adoption by a parent of the person;
- 430 [(11)] (14) "Son or daughter" means a biological, adopted or foster
- child, stepchild, legal ward, or, in the alternative, a child of a person
- standing in loco parentis; [, who is (A) under eighteen years of age; or
- (B) eighteen years of age or older and incapable of self-care because of
- a mental or physical disability; and
- [(12)] (15) "Spouse" means a [husband or wife, as the case may be]
- 436 person to whom one is legally married.
- Sec. 15. Section 31-51ll of the general statutes is repealed and the
- following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2020*):
- (a) (1) Subject to section 31-51mm, as amended by this act, an
- 440 eligible employee shall be entitled to a total of [sixteen] twelve
- 441 workweeks of leave, which may be compensated under the Family and
- 442 <u>Medical Leave Compensation Program established pursuant to section</u>
- 443 <u>2 of this act, during any [twenty-four-month] twelve-month period.</u> [,
- such twenty-four-month] Such twelve-month period [to be] shall be
- 445 determined utilizing any one of the following methods: (A)
- [Consecutive calendar years] Calendar year; (B) any fixed [twenty-
- four-month] twelve-month period, such as [two consecutive fiscal
- 448 years] <u>a fiscal year</u> or a [twenty-four-month] <u>twelve-month</u> period
- measured forward from an employee's first date of employment; (C) a
- 450 [twenty-four-month] <u>twelve-month</u> period measured forward from an
- employee's first day of leave taken under sections 31-51kk to 31-51qq,
- inclusive, as amended by this act; or (D) a rolling [twenty-four-month]
- 453 <u>twelve-month</u> period measured backward from an employee's first
- day of leave taken under sections 31-51kk to 31-51qq, inclusive, as
- 455 <u>amended by this act</u>.
- 456 (2) Leave under this subsection may be taken for one or more of the
- 457 following reasons:

LCO 4897

- 458 (A) Upon the birth of a son or daughter of the employee;
- (B) Upon the placement of a son or daughter with the employee for adoption or foster care;
- (C) In order to care for the spouse, [or a son,] <u>sibling, son or</u> daughter, <u>grandparent</u>, <u>grandchild</u> or parent of the employee, if such spouse, [son,] <u>sibling, son or</u> daughter, <u>grandparent</u>, <u>grandchild</u> or parent has a serious health condition;
- (D) Because of a serious health condition of the employee;
- 466 (E) In order to serve as an organ or bone marrow donor; or
 - (F) Because of any qualifying exigency, as determined in regulations adopted by the United States Secretary of Labor, arising out of the fact that the spouse, son, daughter or parent of the employee is on active duty, or has been notified of an impending call or order to active duty, in the armed forces, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103.
 - (b) Entitlement to leave under subparagraph (A) or (B) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section may accrue prior to the birth or placement of a son or daughter when such leave is required because of such impending birth or placement.
 - (c) (1) Leave under subparagraph (A) or (B) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section for the birth or placement of a son or daughter may not be taken by an employee intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule unless the employee and the employer agree otherwise. Subject to subdivision (2) of this subsection concerning an alternative position, subdivision (2) of subsection (f) of this section concerning the duties of the employee and subdivision (5) of subsection (b) of section 31-51mm, as amended by this act, concerning sufficient certification, leave under subparagraph (C) or (D) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) or under subsection (i) of this section for a serious health condition may be taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule when medically necessary. The taking of leave

- intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule pursuant to this subsection shall not result in a reduction of the total amount of leave to which the employee is entitled under subsection (a) of this section beyond the amount of leave actually taken.
 - (2) If an employee requests intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule under subparagraph (C), (D) or (E) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) or under subsection (i) of this section that is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment, the employer may require the employee to transfer temporarily to an available alternative position offered by the employer for which the employee is qualified and that (A) has equivalent pay and benefits, and (B) better accommodates recurring periods of leave than the regular employment position of the employee, provided the exercise of this authority shall not conflict with any provision of a collective bargaining agreement between such employer and a labor organization which is the collective bargaining representative of the unit of which the employee is a part.
 - (d) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, leave granted under subsection (a) of this section may consist of unpaid leave.
 - (e) (1) If an employer provides paid leave for fewer than [sixteen] twelve workweeks, the additional weeks of leave necessary to attain the [sixteen] twelve workweeks of leave required under sections 5-248a and 31-51kk to 31-51qq, inclusive, as amended by this act, may be provided without compensation or with compensation through the Family and Medical Leave Compensation Program established pursuant to section 2 of this act.
 - (2) (A) An eligible employee may elect [, or an employer may require the employee,] to substitute any of the accrued paid vacation leave, personal leave or family leave of the employee for leave provided under subparagraph (A), (B) or (C) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section for any part of the [sixteen-week] twelve-week period of such leave under said subsection or under subsection

- 520 (i) of this section for any part of the twenty-six-week period of such 521 leave.
 - (B) An eligible employee may elect [, or an employer may require the employee,] to substitute any of the accrued paid vacation leave, personal leave, or medical or sick leave of the employee for leave provided under subparagraph (C), (D) or (E) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section for any part of the [sixteen-week] twelve-week period of such leave under said subsection or under subsection (i) of this section for any part of the twenty-six-week period of leave, except that nothing in section 5-248a or sections 31-51kk to 31-51qq, inclusive, as amended by this act, shall require an employer to provide paid sick leave or paid medical leave in any situation in which such employer would not normally provide any such paid leave.
 - (f) (1) In any case in which the necessity for leave under subparagraph (A) or (B) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section is foreseeable based on an expected birth or placement of a son or daughter, the employee shall provide the employer with not less than thirty days' notice, before the date of the leave is to begin, of the employee's intention to take leave under said subparagraph (A) or (B), except that if the date of the birth or placement of a son or daughter requires leave to begin in less than thirty days, the employee shall provide such notice as is practicable.
 - (2) In any case in which the necessity for leave under subparagraph (C), (D) or (E) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) or under subsection (i) of this section is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment, the employee (A) shall make a reasonable effort to schedule the treatment so as not to disrupt unduly the operations of the employer, subject to the approval of the health care provider of the employee or the health care provider of the spouse, sibling, son [,] or daughter, [spouse] grandparent, grandchild or parent of the employee, as appropriate; and (B) shall provide the employer with not less than thirty days' notice, before the date the leave is to begin, of the employee's intention to take leave under said subparagraph (C), (D) or

- (E) or said subsection (i), except that if the date of the treatment requires leave to begin in less than thirty days, the employee shall provide such notice as is practicable.
- (g) In any case in which [a husband and wife] two spouses entitled to leave under subsection (a) of this section are employed by the same employer, the aggregate number of workweeks of leave to which both may be entitled may be limited to [sixteen] twelve workweeks, which may be compensated under the Family and Medical Leave Compensation Program established pursuant to section 2 of this act, during any [twenty-four-month] twelve-month period, if such leave is taken: (1) Under subparagraph (A) or (B) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section; or (2) to care for a sick sibling, son or daughter, grandparent, grandchild, or parent under subparagraph (C) of said subdivision. In any case in which [a husband and wife] two spouses entitled to leave under subsection (i) of this section are employed by the same employer, the aggregate number of workweeks of leave to which both may be entitled may be limited to twenty-six workweeks, twelve weeks of which may be compensated under the Family and Medical Leave Compensation Program established pursuant to section 2 of this act, during any twelve-month period.
 - (h) Unpaid leave taken pursuant to sections 5-248a and 31-51kk to 31-51qq, inclusive, <u>as amended by this act</u>, shall not be construed to affect an employee's qualification for exemption under chapter 558.
 - (i) Subject to section 31-51mm, <u>as amended by this act</u>, an eligible employee who is the spouse, <u>sibling</u>, son or daughter, <u>grandparent</u>, <u>grandchild</u>, parent or next of kin of a current member of the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation or therapy, is otherwise in outpatient status or is on the temporary disability retired list for a serious injury or illness incurred in the line of duty shall be entitled to a one-time benefit of twenty-six workweeks of leave, <u>up to twelve weeks of which may be compensated under the Family and Medical Leave Compensation Program established pursuant to section 2 of this act, during any</u>

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twelve-month period for each armed forces member per serious injury or illness incurred in the line of duty. Such twelve-month period shall commence on an employee's first day of leave taken to care for a covered armed forces member and end on the date twelve months after such first day of leave. For the purposes of this subsection, (1) "next of kin" means the armed forces member's nearest blood relative, other than the covered armed forces member's spouse, [parent] sibling, son or daughter, grandparent, grandchild or parent, in the following order of priority: Blood relatives who have been granted legal custody of the armed forces member by court decree or statutory provisions, brothers and sisters, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and first cousins, unless the covered armed forces member has specifically designated in writing another blood relative as his or her nearest blood relative for purposes of military caregiver leave, in which case the designated individual shall be deemed to be the covered armed forces member's next of kin; and (2) "son or daughter" means a biological, adopted or foster child, stepchild, legal ward or child for whom the eligible employee or armed forces member stood in loco parentis and who is any age.

- (j) Leave taken pursuant to sections 31-51kk to 31-51qq, inclusive, <u>as</u> <u>amended by this act</u>, shall not run concurrently with the provisions of section 31-313.
- (k) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 5-248a and 31-51kk to 31-51qq, inclusive, <u>as amended by this act</u>, all further rights granted by federal law shall remain in effect.
- Sec. 16. Section 31-51mm of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1*, 2020):
 - (a) An employer may require that request for leave based on a serious health condition in subparagraph (C) or (D) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 31-51*ll*, as amended by this act, or leave based on subsection (i) of section 31-51*ll*, as amended by this act, be supported by a certification issued by the health care provider of the

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- 618 eligible employee or of the spouse, sibling, son [,] or daughter,
- 619 [spouse] grandparent, grandchild, parent or next of kin of the
- 620 employee, as appropriate. The employee shall provide, in a timely
- manner, a copy of such certification to the employer.
- (b) Certification provided under subsection (a) of this section shall be sufficient if it states:
- (1) The date on which the serious health condition commenced;
- 625 (2) The probable duration of the condition;
- 626 (3) The appropriate medical facts within the knowledge of the 627 health care provider regarding the condition;
- 628 (4) (A) For purposes of leave under subparagraph (C) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 31-51ll, as amended by this act, a 629 630 statement that the eligible employee is needed to care for the spouse, 631 sibling, son [,] or daughter, [spouse] grandparent, grandchild or parent and an estimate of the amount of time that such employee needs to 632 633 care for the spouse, sibling, son [,] or daughter, [spouse] grandparent, 634 grandchild or parent; and (B) for purposes of leave under subparagraph (D) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 31-51ll, 635 636 as amended by this act, a statement that the employee is unable to 637 perform the functions of the position of the employee;
 - (5) In the case of certification for intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule for planned medical treatment, the dates on which such treatment is expected to be given and the duration of such treatment;
 - (6) In the case of certification for intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule under subparagraph (D) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 31-51*ll*, as amended by this act, a statement of the medical necessity of the intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule, and the expected duration of the intermittent leave or reduced leave schedule;

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(7) In the case of certification for intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule under subparagraph (C) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 31-51*ll*, as amended by this act, a statement that the employee's intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule is necessary for the care of the spouse, sibling, son [,] or daughter, grandparent, grandchild, or parent [or spouse] who has a serious health condition, or will assist in their recovery, and the expected duration and schedule of the intermittent leave or reduced leave schedule; and

- (8) In the case of certification for intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule under subsection (i) of section 31-51*ll*, <u>as amended by this act</u>, a statement that the employee's intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule is necessary for the care of the spouse, <u>sibling</u>, son or daughter, <u>grandparent</u>, <u>grandchild</u>, parent or next of kin who is a current member of the armed forces, as defined in section 27-103, who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation or therapy, is otherwise in outpatient status or is on the temporary disability retired list, for a serious injury or illness incurred in the line of duty, and the expected duration and schedule of the intermittent leave or reduced leave schedule. For the purposes of this subsection, "son or daughter" and "next of kin" have the same meanings as provided in subsection (i) of section 31-51*ll*, as amended by this act.
- (c) (1) In any case in which the employer has reason to doubt the validity of the certification provided under subsection (a) of this section for leave under subparagraph (C) or (D) of subdivision (2) of subsection (a) or under subsection (i) of section 31-51*ll*, as amended by this act, the employer may require, at the expense of the employer, that the eligible employee obtain the opinion of a second health care provider designated or approved by the employer concerning any information certified under subsection (b) of this section for such leave.
- (2) A health care provider designated or approved under subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not be employed on a regular basis by the employer.

- (d) (1) In any case in which the second opinion described in subsection (c) of this section differs from the opinion in the original certification provided under subsection (a) of this section, the employer may require, at the expense of the employer, that the employee obtain the opinion of a third health care provider designated or approved jointly by the employer and the employee concerning the information certified under subsection (b) of this section.
- (2) The opinion of the third health care provider concerning the information certified under subsection (b) of this section shall be considered to be final and shall be binding on the employer and the employee.
- (e) The employer may require that the eligible employee obtain subsequent recertifications on a reasonable basis, provided the standards for determining what constitutes a reasonable basis for recertification may be governed by a collective bargaining agreement between such employer and a labor organization which is the collective bargaining representative of the unit of which the worker is a part if such a collective bargaining agreement is in effect. Unless otherwise required by the employee's health care provider, the employer may not require recertification more than once during a thirty-day period and, in any case, may not unreasonably require recertification. The employer shall pay for any recertification that is not covered by the employee's health insurance.
- Sec. 17. Section 31-5100 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2020*):
 - Records and documents relating to medical certifications, recertifications or medical histories of employees or employees' family members, created for purposes of sections 5-248a and 31-51kk to 31-51qq, inclusive, as amended by this act, and sections 2 to 13, inclusive, of this act shall be maintained as medical records pursuant to chapter 563a, except that: (1) Supervisors and managers may be informed regarding necessary restrictions on the work or duties of an employee

- and necessary accommodations; (2) first aid and safety personnel may
- be informed, when appropriate, if the employee's physical or medical
- 715 condition might require emergency treatment; and (3) government
- officials investigating compliance with sections 5-248a and 31-51kk to
- 717 31-51qq, inclusive, as amended by this act, and sections 2 to 13,
- 718 <u>inclusive</u>, of this act, or other pertinent law shall be provided relevant
- 719 information upon request.
- Sec. 18. Section 31-51pp of the general statutes is repealed and the
- 721 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2020*):
- 722 (a) (1) It shall be a violation of sections 5-248a and 31-51kk to 31-
- 51qq, inclusive, <u>as amended by this act</u>, for any employer to interfere
- 724 with, restrain or deny the exercise of, or the attempt to exercise, any
- 725 right provided under said sections.
- 726 (2) It shall be a violation of sections 5-248a and 31-51kk to 31-51qq,
- 727 inclusive, as amended by this act, for any employer to discharge or
- 728 cause to be discharged, or in any other manner discriminate, against
- 729 any individual for opposing any practice made unlawful by said
- 730 sections or because such employee has exercised the rights afforded to
- 731 such employee under said sections.
- 732 (b) It shall be a violation of sections 5-248a and 31-51kk to 31-51qq,
- 733 inclusive, <u>as amended by this act</u>, for any person to discharge or cause
- 734 to be discharged, or in any other manner discriminate, against any
- 735 individual because such individual:
- 736 (1) Has filed any charge, or has instituted or caused to be instituted
- any proceeding, under or related to sections 5-248a and 31-51kk to 31-
- 738 51qq, inclusive, as amended by this act;
- 739 (2) Has given, or is about to give, any information in connection
- 740 with any inquiry or proceeding relating to any right provided under
- 741 said sections; or
- 742 (3) Has testified, or is about to testify, in any inquiry or proceeding

743 relating to any right provided under said sections.

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- (c) (1) It shall be a violation of sections 31-51kk to 31-51qq, inclusive, as amended by this act, for any employer to deny an employee the right to use up to two weeks of accumulated sick leave or to discharge, threaten to discharge, demote, suspend or in any manner discriminate against an employee for using, or attempting to exercise the right to use, up to two weeks of accumulated sick leave to attend to a serious health condition of a spouse, sibling, son or daughter, [spouse] grandparent, grandchild or parent of the employee, or for the birth or adoption of a son or daughter of the employee. For purposes of this subsection, "sick leave" means an absence from work for which compensation is provided through (A) an employer's bona fide written policy providing compensation for loss of wages occasioned by illness, or (B) the Family and Medical Leave Compensation Program established pursuant to section 2 of this act, but does not include absences from work for which compensation is provided through an employer's plan, including, but not limited to, a short or long-term disability plan, whether or not such plan is self-insured.
- (2) Any employee aggrieved by a violation of this subsection may file a complaint with the Labor Commissioner alleging violation of the provisions of this subsection. Upon receipt of any such complaint, the commissioner shall hold a hearing. After the hearing, the commissioner shall send each party a written copy of the commissioner's decision. The commissioner may award the employee all appropriate relief, including rehiring or reinstatement to the employee's previous job, payment of back wages and reestablishment of employee benefits to which the employee otherwise would have been eligible if a violation of this subsection had not occurred. Any party aggrieved by the decision of the commissioner may appeal the decision to the Superior Court in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.
- 774 (3) The rights and remedies specified in this subsection are 775 cumulative and nonexclusive and are in addition to any other rights or

- 776 remedies afforded by contract or under other provisions of law.
- 777 Sec. 19. Section 31-51qq of the general statutes is repealed and the 778 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):
- 779 On or before [January 1, 1997] July 1, 2019, the Labor Commissioner 780 shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 781 54, to establish procedures and guidelines necessary to implement the 782 provisions of sections [5-248a and] 31-51kk to 31-51qq, inclusive, as 783 amended by this act, and sections 2 to 13, inclusive, of this act, including, but not limited to, procedures for hearings and redress, 784 785 including restoration and restitution, for an employee who believes 786 that there is a violation by the employer of such employee of any 787 provision of said sections. [In adopting such regulations, the 788 commissioner shall make reasonable efforts to ensure compatibility of 789 state regulatory provisions with similar provisions of the federal 790 Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 and the regulations 791 promulgated pursuant to said act.]
- 792 Sec. 20. Section 31-51ss of the general statutes is repealed and the 793 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2020*):
- 794 (a) For the purposes of this section:
- 795 (1) "Employer" means a person engaged in business who has three or more employees, including the state and any political subdivision of 796 797 the state;
- 798 (2) "Employee" means any person engaged in service to an employer 799 in the business of the employer;
- 800 (3) "Family violence" means family violence, as defined in section 801 46b-38a; and
- 802 (4) "Leave" includes paid or unpaid leave which may include, but is 803 not limited to, compensatory time, vacation time, personal days off, 804 leave under the Family and Medical Leave Compensation Program

established pursuant to section 2 of this act or other time off.

- (b) If an employee is a victim of family violence, an employer shall permit the employee to take paid or unpaid leave during any calendar year in which such leave is reasonably necessary (1) to seek medical care or psychological or other counseling for physical or psychological injury or disability for the victim, (2) to obtain services from a victim services organization on behalf of the victim, (3) to relocate due to such family violence, or (4) to participate in any civil or criminal proceeding related to or resulting from such family violence. An employer may limit unpaid leave under this section to twelve days during any calendar year. Leave under this section shall not affect any other leave provided under state or federal law.
- (c) If an employee's need to use leave under this section is foreseeable, an employer may require advance notice, not to exceed seven days prior to the date such leave is to begin, of the intention to use such leave. If an employee's need for such leave is not foreseeable, an employer may require an employee to give notice of such intention as soon as practicable.
- (d) Upon an employer's request, an employee who takes leave pursuant to this section shall provide the employer a signed written statement certifying that the leave is for a purpose authorized under this section. The employer may also, but need not, request that the employee provide a police or court record related to the family violence or a signed written statement that the employee is a victim of family violence, provided such statement is from an employee or agent of a victim services organization, an attorney, an employee of the Judicial Branch's Office of Victim Services or the Office of the Victim Advocate, or a licensed medical professional or other licensed professional from whom the employee has sought assistance with respect to the family violence.
- (e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to (1) prevent employers from providing more leave than is required under this

- section, (2) diminish any rights provided to any employee under the terms of the employee's employment or a collective bargaining agreement, or (3) preempt or override the terms of any collective bargaining agreement effective prior to October 1, 2010.
 - (f) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require an employer to provide paid leave under this section if (1) the employee is not entitled to paid leave pursuant to the terms and conditions of the employee's employment or under the Family and Medical Leave Compensation Program established pursuant to section 2 of this act, or (2) such paid leave exceeds the maximum amount of leave due the employee during any calendar year, provided the employee shall be entitled to unpaid leave under this section if paid leave is exhausted or not provided.
 - (g) Any written statement or police or court record provided to an employer pursuant to subsection (d) of this section shall be maintained as confidential by the employer and shall not be further disclosed by the employer except as required by federal or state law or as necessary to protect the employee's safety in the workplace, provided the employee is given notice prior to the disclosure.
 - (h) If an employer discharges, penalizes or threatens or otherwise coerces an employee in violation of this section, the employee, not later than one hundred eighty days from the occurrence of such action, may bring a civil action for damages and for an order requiring the employee's reinstatement or otherwise rescinding such action. If the employee prevails, the employee shall be allowed a reasonable attorney's fee to be fixed by the court.
- Sec. 21. Section 3-13c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2017*):
- Trust funds as used in sections 3-13 to 3-13e, inclusive, and 3-31b shall be construed to include Connecticut Municipal Employees' Retirement Fund A, Connecticut Municipal Employees' Retirement

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Fund B, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines Fund, <u>Family and Medical Leave</u>

<u>Compensation Trust Fund</u>, State's Attorneys' Retirement Fund,

Teachers' Annuity Fund, Teachers' Pension Fund, Teachers'

Survivorship and Dependency Fund, School Fund, State Employees

Retirement Fund, the Hospital Insurance Fund, Policemen and

Firemen Survivor's Benefit Fund and all other trust funds

administered, held or invested by the <u>State</u> Treasurer.

875 Sec. 22. Section 31-51rr of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective* 876 *July* 1, 2020)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following			
sections:			
Section 1	from passage	New section	
Sec. 2	from passage	New section	
Sec. 3	from passage	New section	
Sec. 4	from passage	New section	
Sec. 5	from passage	New section	
Sec. 6	from passage	New section	
Sec. 7	January 1, 2019	New section	
Sec. 8	from passage	New section	
Sec. 9	from passage	New section	
Sec. 10	January 1, 2020	New section	
Sec. 11	from passage	New section	
Sec. 12	from passage	New section	
Sec. 13	from passage	New section	
Sec. 14	July 1, 2020	31-51kk	
Sec. 15	July 1, 2020	31-51 <i>ll</i>	
Sec. 16	July 1, 2020	31-51mm	
Sec. 17	July 1, 2020	31-5100	
Sec. 18	July 1, 2020	31-51pp	
Sec. 19	July 1, 2019	31-51qq	
Sec. 20	July 1, 2020	31-51ss	
Sec. 21	July 1, 2017	3-13c	
Sec. 22	July 1, 2020	Repealer section	

LAB Joint Favorable